

Molly Terrys Easter Wedding

OR,
Other People's Eyes

By AMELIA E. BARR.

AUTHOR OF "A BOW OF ORANGE RIBBON"

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PART I.

However much for ordinary mortals the earth revolves in void, for lovers, at least, it is generally supposed, to revolve in Heaven. Certainly at Santa Lucia, one April evening, in 1867, any reasonable lovers might have supposed so. But there were two who did not seem in celestial moods, though the garden was white with orange blossoms, and the young April moon was shining tenderly, and the mocking birds pouring their souls in melody through all the warm, scented air.

Such a tall handsome fellow, with a square, purposeful face, and an arm that made light of a trifle carrying ten balls to a pound. A man whom you felt at once it would be good to lean upon, and always safe to love.

Such a lovely girl, with a witching, coaxing, pleasant face, and a little light, swaying figure that was as graceful as a water flower. They were pacing the veranda together under the young April moon and the spring blossoms—together, and not together, for Molly had taken her hand out of Jack's and kept just a step before him.

"Molly! No answer."

"Molly, dear!"

"Well, Jack?"

"Is it me—myself—you are going to marry?"

"Of course it is."

"Then why care a fig for what people will say? I have got, as you very well know, two thousand dollars a year, and I have saved besides just three thousand dollars; that is all the coin I am worth. It is possible to have a wedding fit for a millionaire?"

"Jack, men know nothing about these things. There was my friend, Lulu Shrader, who married Ralph Randall. Ralph hadn't a cent but his salary, and Lulu's wedding dress and veil and all her things came from New York, and every decent person in the town was at the wedding. It cost Mr. Shrader all of two thousand dollars. I am not going to have a shabby affair to please either you or papa, and I think you are very cruel to ask me."

"Jack, I think that question is real mean. Of course I know how poor Lulu has come down, but—"

"But don't you see darling, that the money spent on the wedding dress and feast would have bought them a home. I have heard Ralph say so many a time."

"That is just like men; calculating always what women could save off their dress."

"Well, Molly, I love you dearly; you know that well, and I would do anything sensible thing to please you, but I am not going to begin my married life by ruining myself, and I am not going to spend my last cent because I want all Santa Lucia to know that I am as big a fool as Randall, and rather a bigger one than Gen. Joyce, who went to housekeeping last week as quietly and modestly as really rich men generally do."

Molly was sulky and Molly was saucy, but Jack would not readily take offense. He loved this pretty girl so well and was so sure of her good heart and her usual wisdom that he could not bear to part with her. But Jack was also a man sovereign of himself—a man, who, having once decided that a course was right, was no more to be moved than the centre of a circle.

Molly, too, had that kind of persistence which is peculiarly womanly—the persistence of a fly, which, when driven off, returns to the attack. This species of warfare masters most men, but Jack came of Puritan and Scotch lineage, and had that kind of four respect for his own conscience which eyes of all generations have found unworkable to their will.

"Why parted that night in tears and anger, Jack? He his cigar and walked down to the beach to reconsider the situation. Molly went up stairs and

the house, and no one there but his and her relations."

"De deal!"

"Julia Kemp told me it was just like a prayer-meeting—so solemn like."

"De's Medodes is de Gin'ral's folks, honey."

"And so selfish, Mammy, not to ask even one's neighbor! and I'd sent to New York, you know, for patterns and prices and things, and just decided on the loveliest satin suit and sprigged Paris veil! It's too bad for anything."

"So 'tis. You just get 'em anyhow, foolish like you know, for patterns and prices and things, and just decided on the loveliest satin suit and sprigged Paris veil! It's too bad for anything."

"No he went, mammy; he's that set in his own way. He told me plain that I wanted to be married in satin and lace. I must get a richer bridegroom than he was. Besides, if he won't have a breakfast and ball, and won't go up North for a bridal trip, what is the use of me getting lovely things? Nobody will see them."

"You're too good for Massa Jack, honey; dat am the trufe; just you tell him so; dar's Colonel Jessup—powerful nice man, an' lubs you like—"

"Colonel Jessup, Mammy! That wet curl-paper of a man! wouldn't he believe you would speak his name to me. Besides, Mammy, I love Jack."

"Ob course, he know dat, an' he calculates to begin habbing his own way 'fore he got any right to. You berry foolish let him see you love him! When I was a gal, no one catch me at dat trick."

"He found it out, Mammy—he finds out everything. And there's papa, instead of standing up for his own daughter, says I ought to thank Heaven for such a sensible husband."

"So you ought, chile, when you gets him; dey's scarce 'nough, de Lord knows."

"Fuh my hands and feet, Mammy, and shut the blinds. Oh, Jack! Jack! I don't see how you can be so cruel!" and Molly really sobbed herself to sleep.

Morning, however, woke up this little womanly fly to a fresh attack. She

ding that was the talk of the county for a twelfth-month? And mamma's tresse came from Paris, and you went to Europe for a bridal tour? Very like Satan correcting sin, for you to oppose stylish weddings, I think."

"Well, Molly, that was twenty years ago. We were a rich crowd then; we are a poor one now. And I'll confess to you that I thought the whole thing a tremendous bore. It left me tight in money matters for a long time, and your mother was never contented at home afterwards. I was very sorry about it."

"Well, I don't want to go to Paris. I want a wedding suit from New York and other things that will cost about one thousand dollars. And I want to have a house full of friends for a week before the wedding, with plenty of



"MOLLY!"

diners and parties, and I want all the nice people we know in Santa Lucia, Broria and Javaca to a big marriage and ball. Of course Jack and I ought to go North for a month!"

"Molly, have some pity on me. I can't stand that kind of thing either physically or mentally; it's foolish, dear, and Jack can't leave his duties so long—of course he can't."

"Then if I can't be married in my way I am not going to be married in Jack Madison's way, I assure you."

PART II.

"Now, Molly, his ideas are very sensible."

"Do you know his ideas, papa?"

"Yes. He wants to buy the Gardner place for \$2,000 and then your \$2,000 would not only furnish it comfortably but buy a buggy to his horse, and still leave a little nest egg for future savings."

"Oh, those are his ideas! Well, I don't like the Gardner place, and I don't intend my \$2,000 to buy chairs and matting and a stove and a buggy. And as for being married like Lizzie Raymond was, in white muslin and natural flowers and having no one but our relations, I think it is quite irreligious. People ought to have some consideration for their friends' feelings, and everybody says General Joyce acted very meanly!"

"I don't think he and Lizzie thought of that. They regard marriage as a very solemn and personal thing. Their marriage was a religious service, and really, now, Molly, I think it is better for two young people to begin life together praying than dancing. I do, indeed!"

"Papa, do you love me?"

"Why, Molly, darling, you know I do." Molly's arm was round his neck, and she was stroking and kissing his face and cooing him such words few fathers could resist. The judge sighed, but submitted, and before he lifted his Panama again, had pledged himself to second Molly's wishes about her wedding.

He sent for Jack and had a long talk with him, but he could not convince the lover against his judgment. Indeed, Jack felt a little contempt for a father so easily wrought to his own injury, and the judge feeling this, they parted at last quite coolly. In all this dispute Jack was really very wretched; he loved Molly with a strength she was far from understanding, but this matter he regarded as vitally affecting all their future, and, being a man, he could not conceive how a son and a French veil should separate them, if Molly really loved him.

It did, though. There was another stormy meeting and some passionate tears, and then Molly, drawing her engagement ring off her finger, laid it in Jack's hand. It cost Jack then a terrible struggle to avoid making her any promise, however extravagant. But there are men to whom conscience is not altogether a thing of living and lucid, and Jack was one of them. Yet he suffered so much whenever he met Molly or heard her voice in the church choir that he resolved to leave the place.

They had parted in May. On Christmas eve he called once more at the judge's house and asked to see Molly. There were several persons present—some playing whist with the judge, others standing around Molly, who he parted at last quite coolly. In all this dispute Jack was really very wretched; he loved Molly with a strength she was far from understanding, but this matter he regarded as vitally affecting all their future, and, being a man, he could not conceive how a son and a French veil should separate them, if Molly really loved him.

garden, and how sweet and still and clean and fresh everything is! "But, Lulu, this is too much of a wedding present. I don't like to take it."

"I told Molly that, and she said she had never spent three hundred dollars as much to her liking. She says I have taught her a lesson worth far more than that."

Ralph said little, but he was none the less grateful and happy, and he thought he saw a way in which he could pay one good turn with another. So in a few days he said to his employer: "About that cotton due in Seaguide, don't you think I ought to go and see about it? My looks are made up. I could spare ten days very well now."

"It would be well done, Mr. Randall. Suppose you go at once."

Therefore it happened, a week afterwards—Ralph's business being well finished—he rode one evening to Santa Lucia, having contrived to take it in his homeward journey. The meeting was a very hearty one, and was spent in much pleasant conversation.

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Ralph let every other topic get exhausted before he introduced the one he had specially come to talk about. But at last, as they began to smoke more quietly, and talk more seriously, Ralph said: "I had a great piece of luck lately."

"As how, Ralph?"

"Well, you know how I do hate a boarding house, and how I've longed for a home of my own ever since I was married. But last summer we suffered more than ever for it—the noise, the want of privacy, the confinement, the heat, and the dirty, wretched cooking. I don't wonder our poor little baby cried all the time. It lived; it most killed Lulu, and about drove me crazy. One day Lulu tells that dear little Molly Terry everything, and would you believe it? she went and bought Wheeler's cottage, gave us it at a moderate rent, and made us a present of the furniture."

"Molly Terry did that?"

"Yes, she did, Jack, and you can't imagine what a home-like, charming little nest Lulu has made of it. I knew nothing till I was asked to tea there, and, really, I could hardly eat the little feast made for me for joy and gratitude."

"Molly Terry did that?"

"Molly Terry did that, and never took the cream of a single kindness any way. She's a noble little lady. Heaven help her!"

"The result of Ralph's journey was that Jack also took a journey, and arrived one sunny April afternoon in Santa Lucia. He went directly to Judge Terry's, and found Molly sitting in the parlor sewing and singing softly to herself. She rose hurriedly when he entered and blushed as bright as sunshine."

"Molly!"

"Jack!"

"Molly, dear, there's divinity in odd numbers; I'm come to ask you the third time, will you marry me—my way?"

"Your way is my way, Jack, if you like to take me with you. It is not often we learn from other people's mistakes, but Lulu Randall opened my eyes."

"And Ralph Randall opened mine. I guess they have given us our wedding present."

"Then you know, Jack, I think they owe us nothing, love."

Jack would have of no delay, and Molly had no particular preparations to make this time. "You see I have been getting ready, Jack, ever since you went away. I knew you would come back for me."

But though Molly was married "among her own people," very solemnly and quietly, and though she wore nothing but white muslin and natural flowers, she was the happiest and loveliest of Easter brides. And today Jack is rich enough—and willing enough—to give her the finest of satins and laces, but Molly no longer cares particularly about them. She dresses for those she loves, and for those who love her, and "other people's eyes" give her little anxiety, and cost her very little money.

Woman may crown herself with good health if she will. By so doing she will insure her own ative give her husband and her home happy, and protect the health of her babies. Health is the most glorious boon that a woman may wear. To wear it she must take proper care of herself, and see to it that the delicate organs that are distinctly feminine are always healthy and strong. Thousands of women fall short of good health in this respect, and as a result soon become but wrecks of their former selves. A woman cannot long retain her general health who is suffering from weakness and disease of the organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription acts directly on these organs. It makes them well and strong. It prepares a woman to be a wife and mother. It does away with the discomforts of the menstrual period and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. All good druggists sell it.

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"WHAT'S THE MATTER WID MY BLESSID CHILE?"

threw herself into the arms of Mammy Cassy, weeping out her anger and sorrow there in passionate abandon.

She had no mother but this faithful black nurse, but as she only needed some one to support her in her own way, Mammy was rather better than anyone else; for Mammy not only understood all Molly's opinions and feelings, but also shared them.

"What's de matter wid my blessed chile?" she said, rubbing Molly's hands tenderly.

Mammy, it's too bad. Jack knows I love him, and he won't hear of my having a decent wedding, and it will kill me—I know it will."

"I know Jack done got mean, honey, den Ise gwine to gib up de men folks. I 'clar' to goodness, dey's too aggravatin'. What for my chile not hab de kind of weddin' she wants to hab? Rascion it's your weddin' anyhow! What does he say, honey?"

"He says he would rather I would keep the \$2,000 papa gave me for my things, and be married like General Joyce and Lizzie Raymond were—just ask the minister, you know, Mammy, to

told him what a grand wedding Cassy Cassy, weeping out her anger and sorrow there in passionate abandon.

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